REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated November 23, 2005. Non-elected claims 8-13 have been canceled, without prejudice in view of the Restriction Requirement. New claims 14-17 have been added. Thus, claims 1-7 and 14-17 are now pending.

The title has been amended as requested by the Examiner.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Kobayashi in view of Kaneko. This Section 103(a) rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 requires "photoelectric conversion amount detecting means for detecting an amount of charge stored in the capacitor that varies according to intensity of light projected on the photosensitive thin-film transistor; and control means for reversing the polarity of the stored charge in the capacitor with respect to a potential of a source electrode of the photosensitive thin-film transistor."

Kobayashi fails to disclose or suggest the above underlined feature of claim 1. According to Kobayashi, the voltage to be *applied to* the storage capacitors C11-C33 is switched between Vg and Vs, which have the opposite polarities (col. 10, lines 30-44; Fig. 8). Such operation is carried out in order to *refresh* the storage capacitors C11-C33 by switching of charging and discharging. However, Kobayashi does not disclose or suggest reversing the polarity of the stored charge in the capacitor with respect to a potential of a source electrode as required by claim 1. Kobayashi does not reverse polarity of stored charge in a capacitor, and also does not do so with respect to a potential of a source electrode as called for in claim 1. Kobayashi is entirely unrelated to the invention of claim 1 in this regard. Citation to Kaneko cannot cure the aforesaid flaws of Kobayashi.

Claim 7 also requires "reversing the polarity of the stored charge in the capacitor with respect to a potential of the source electrode of the photosensitive thin-film transistor." Again, the cited art fails to disclose or suggest this feature, either alone or in the alleged combination.

Claim 16 requires "wherein the control means is for reversing the polarity of the stored charge in the capacitor with respect to the potential of the source electrode of the photosensitive thin-film transistor so that the polarity of charge read out via a source line electrically connected to the source electrode is positive in certain reading cycles and negative in other reading cycles." E.g., see the instant specification at page 20, lines 4-10. Since Kobayashi uses a negative potential from the reading power source Vs for all reading cycles (see Kobayashi at col. 10, lines 63-67, and Fig. 9), Kobayashi fails to disclose or suggest this underlined feature of claim 16. Moreover, since Kaneko also fails to disclose or suggest this feature, citation thereto cannot cure the fundamental flaws of Kobayashi in this regard.

Claim 17 requires that "the photoelectric conversion amount detecting means comprises a charge integration circuit whose output changes polarity every image reading cycle or every multiple image reading cycle for pixels receiving light." E.g., see the "output of CSA" signal in Fig. 1 of the instant application. Kobayashi fails to disclose or suggest this underlined feature of claim 17.

It is respectfully requested that all rejections be withdrawn. All claims are in condition for allowance. If any minor matter remains to be resolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned with regard to the same.

Respectfully submitted,

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